WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

KVIC Employment Plan for Rural Areas

4. SHRI RAM SHARAN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Khadi and Village Industries Commission have chalked out any plan at district level in the States to provide employment in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the likely number of beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission has proposed a strategy for the 8-th plan which has to be implemented through the State Khadi and Village Industries Boards, registered institutions and co-operative with the support and assistance of the State Governments and the Commission.

96 Village Industries are to be taken up for intensive development under this programme. These include many traditional industries like agro processing, fruit and vegetable processing, hand made paper and new industries like electronics and gem and diamond cutting and polishing.

The thrust of these programmes is to provide a larger share of employment to SCs/STs, women and other weaker sections of the society. At present the share of SCs/STs is 30 per cent and that of women nearly 46 per cent amongst the beneficiaries. About 87 per cent employment activities under KVIC are confined to rural areas.

According to the strategy proposed for the next Plan period (1992-97), it is proposed to expand employment, mainly in the rural areas, from the existing 47 lakh persons, in the country, to 70 lakh persons.

[English]

Allocation of Distributing Agencies for Chemicals and Fertilizers

*5. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any priority is given to cooperative societies while allocating agencies for distribution of various fertilisers and chemicals; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b). The fertiliser manufacturing units in the cooperative sector like Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) and Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBCO) distribute the bulk of the fertiliser produced by them through the cooperative societies.

The fertiliser manufacturing units in the public and private sectors distribute fertilizers through a network of private trade and also through the cooperative and other institutional agencies operating in States. The distribution margin allowed to the cooperative societies has been fixed at a higher level to encourage the sale of fertilisers through the operative institutions. Moreover, the recently introduced subsidy scheme of fertiliser for the small and marginal farmers is being operated by several State through the cooperative institutions. The State have accordingly been given flexibility in enhancing the distribution of fertilisers through the cooperative agencies.

The chemicals are distributed through a